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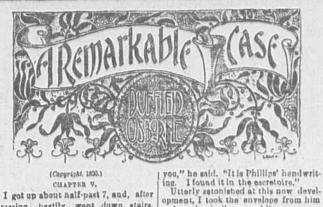
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and mechanically opened it.
"Pardon me," I said. Then I read as

asking for the appointment and must have advanced strong reasons to obtain one at such an hour. Let us suppose that it came estensibly from one of the

railroad gang and offered to disclose, for a consideration and under conditions insuring secrety, the directions given by some officer of the company to his subordinates to delay the work and

his subordinates to delay the work and to harass Mr. Smith as much as possible in retaliation for his persistent hostility. Your brother, feeling as he did, would have been only too glad to get such information on any terms, so he destroyed the letter, as was doubtless stipulated for, rose, dressed, admitted his alloged informant secretly, took him in his room, was stabbed, partly undressed and dressed again, carried out while it was yet dark and placed or thrown into the cut, care being taken that his skull should be fractured as to apparently account far

tured as to apparently account for death. Then the murderer, having wrapped up the garments through which the knife passed, took them away with him. Much of this is in the nature

CHAPTER V. I got up about half-past 7, and, after dressing hastily, went down stairs. Phillips had not appeared, and I hosttated awhile as to whether I should awaken him, deciding finally in the negative. Mary, of course, did not leave her room. At last the clock struck 9. I went up to the detective's door and listened. Evidently he was not moving. so I knocked—gently at first, then more decidedly; but without response. Finally I ventured to try the door, only to find that it was locked on the inside. I now began to pound vigorously, lis-

tening, from time to time, dutt at ast, thoroughly frightened by the persistent silence, I put my shoulder against it and forced it open.

Phillips was lying on the bed, apparently in a very heavy slumber, although the daylight was streaming through the window. His lips were parted and his cheeks seemed alightly flushed. I spoke to him, and laid my hand on his shoulder.

tening, from time to time, until at last,

shoulder.

Then I recoiled with sudden horrer.

The man was dead—rigid—cold as stone, and had evidently been dead for many

hours.

The shock of this discovery was so great that, for a few moments, I was utterly unable to think connectedly. Little by little I began to realize the full extent of the calamity, and regret for what seemed to me the extinction of our best hope to learn the truth as to my brother's murder, was mingled with



THE MAN WAS DEAD.

a deeper regret that the strain of my interests had been the last straw to break down an overworked and neeful life. Pervading all was the consciousness of a possibility too horrible to con-

ness of a possibility too horrible to contemplate. There was nothing to do, however, but notify the authorities, and, before the day had passed, the house was again thronged with coroner, physicians, constables and jurymen.

The body of the dead detective was examined. He had evidently prepared himself for bed as usual; his clothes were laid carefully over a chair, and he had passed away in his sleep apparently without a struggle or pang. I breathed a sigh of heartfelt relief when the investigation disclosed no evidence of violence, and the verdict was rendered accordingly: "Death by heart failure occasioned by exhaustion and overaccordingly: "Death by heart failure occasioned by exhaustion and over-My brother's funeral had been set

Aly prothers tuneral had been set for the following day, and I confess to something of a montal struggle as to whether I should at once acquaint the local authorities with Phillip's discoveries. Skidmore, the village constable, was the last to leave me and, as he did so, he took occasion to intimate that the solution of the murder had been pretty accurately arrived at, and that, without the aid of "no highfalutin

that, without the sid of "no highfalutin city detective."
"What do you mean?" lasked quickly, "Oh! nuthin' much," he replied. "Only we've found out that that there ielier Raiph was seen a walkin' up th' road in this direction 'bout five o'clock that mornin'."
"Who saw him?".
"Billy Gough. I reckon he don't know much, but he knows enough not ter be fooled on a feller that's bin 'round here as long as Raiph has."
With this parting shot, the local Hawkshaw took his departure, leaving me inconsiderably perturbed at his in-

me inconsiderably perturbed at his in-formation. I had begun somehow to feel antisfied of the innocence of the young collegian. A knife thrust was the last method a man like him would miopt, and it seemed to me to bring the mior, and it seemed to me to bring the crime closer to the Italians with whom my brother had quarreled. Whether this impression originated with myself or whether I felt unconsciously that Phillips' conclusions were tending in Phillips' conclusions were tending in that direction, I do not know. Still, I could not deny that this last bit of testimony was very material as circumstantial evidence. To be sure, Billy Gough was hardly half-witted, but, as the constable said, he knew Rulph we'll enough not to be mistaken on a question of his identity.

I have forgot to state to you that, im-I have lorget to state to you that, immediately upon my discovery of Pailipa' death, I had naturally telegraphed Superintendent Sanford, and that, by his directions, Inspector Ransom had come up to attend the inquest and to make arrangements for the removal of the body to New York. He had had little or nothing to say during the proceedings, and I had left him in the room occupied by Phillips, while I saw the constable to the door.

occupied by Philips, while I saw the constable to the door.

As I turned back into the hall, Mary was descending the stairs. Her face was ngitated and I surmised at once that she must have overheard Skidmore's parting remarks, a surmise which proved it has constituted.

What did that man say to you?" she

"What did that man say to you?" she asked, coming close.

I told her in a few words, intimating, as I did so, a hardly felt doubt as to the reliability of Billy Gough's statements.
"He was perfectly correct, nevertheless," she said, after a short hesitation. "I went out about 5 o'clock to meet Jack by a perfectly never the said.

"I went out about 5 o'clock to meet Jack by appointment and to arrange to go away with him. I met him on the road, and he walked as far as the gate with me. It was almost six o'clock, and Jack went back to the village. He did not come even as far as the house, and I know he could not have killed father. As for your New York friend who was trying to fix it on him——"

"Mr. Smith, may I have a few words with you at once?" came a voice from the stairs. My niece started at the sound and darted into the library.

"Cartingly, inspector," I answered.
"Can I trouble you to come up here?"
I mounted the stairs instily, had Ransom drew me into the room, closing the door behind us. His face was more than serious.

than serious.
"Here is a scaled letter addressed to

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Ko matter what the disease is or how many doctors have failed to cure you, ask your druggist for a 25-cent yial of one of funyon's Cures, and if you are not benefited your money will be refunded.

"Pardon me," I said. Then I read as follows:
"Dean Sia:—Realizing that my life must terminate very shortly, I take occasion to commit to writing a brief summary of the discovery of facts as to your brother's murder.

"H was killed by a kaife thrust inflicted from behind over the right shoulder. This happened in his own room or, at least, in the house, and the murderer was a man admitted by appointment. The charred letter in the grate was doubtless the communication asking for the appointment and must it exactly as I would any other, by the same means and to its logical conclusion. I do not think that I allowed myself to be influenced by any knowledge not coming to me as an investigator, and the result shows that a clever offender can rarely be a match for an equally clever detective. Whatever clea I may have been, my reputation as a conscientious and able official remains without spot. "Finally, I have, by the use of a vege-

out spot.

"Finally, I have, by the use of a vegetable poison known only to a very few persons in Sicily, administered justice and avenged the law. Should you ask how a man of my intelligence, education and the second lend himself to such at some I will only say that I was a wild boy of 15 when I joined the Mafia, and that disobedience to its commands meant certain death. Then, too, you must remember my Italian blood, and that we do not look at some things as do the northern races.

"John Phillips."

There is little more totell. When Inspector Ransom had read the above paper we both concluded that it ought not to be made public, unless necessary to clear an innocent man; and that contingency did not arise. My disclosure of the knife wound and the testimony bearing upon the time and place of the murder, together with my niece's relations of the causes and details of John Ralph's innovements, served to divert suspicion to some one of the Italian. Raiph's movements, served to divert suspicion to some one of the Italian workmen and there, with the aid of the police, all clines were lost. Raiph was discharged and, several years later,

married my niece.

I will only add that I have told you this story to hasten the flight of anxious hours and relying upon you as gentle-men to regard the facts related as strict-ly confidential. Do you think me justi-fied in calling it "A Remarkable Case?" [THE END.]

A PLUCKY GIRL

Ascends to the Crater of Popacatapeti-A Peritous Journey

"Let me now go a step further than we haye gone together and add that it is perfectly clear that Mr. Robert Smith was killed by an agent of the Mafia, in revenge for the insults he offered that society. This theory not only supplies an ample motive, but it also accords fully with the method of killing and the overwhelming evidence pointing to a deliberately planned assassination. Moreover, every first class detective must be familiar with the fundamental principles of the great secret organization, and those of the Mafia make it cortain that language such as "Let me now go a step further than MEXICO CITY, MEX., July 17 .- A suc cessful ascent has been made to the crater of the volcano of Popacatapetl by a girl of 15, in the person of Florence Blackmore, of Dean's academy, Franklin, Mass., who thus has the distinction lin, Mass, who thus has the distinction of being the youngest member of her sex who has ever accomplished the perilous trip. The party numbered eight, including several young ladies, and all reached the crater. Nearly 100 school teachers have arrived in this capital from the Deuver educational convention. The parties will spend several days in this vicinity before returning to the north. make it certain that language such as your brother used would have lafalli-bly marked him as a victim. The work was not done, however, by any man with whom Mr. Smith had ever been in

Norfolk & Western Rond.

communication, much less had trouble communication, much less had trouble. The rule is that, after death had been decreed by the branch before which the case is tried, notice is sent to some branch located at a distance, one of whose members—an entire stranger to the matter—is then selected by lot to act as executioner. Some member, then, of the Mafla, was doubtless in the gang that heard your brather's trade, made London, July 10 .- Several members of the Norfolk & Western reorganization committee are in this city and conferences have been held with the Eng ferences have been held with the English accurity holders looking to the formation of a plan for the reliabilitation of the company on an equitable basis as between the stock and bendholders. It is not likely, however, that any definite agreement will be arrived at before September, as the present earnings of the road, owing to the strike, are not regarded as jurnishing a proper basis for a reorganization plan. that heard your brother's firade, made report of his words, and the result foliowed.

"Now let me inform you of a conclusive plees of syldence which one of those chances against which no criminal can guard has placed in my hand. Otherwise the task of detection would

A Hauging in Washington.

Washington, D. C., July 19.—James L. Travers, a negro, was hanged at the district fall here at 11:36 o'clock for the murder of his mistress, Lens Gross, last November.

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"There are reasons, however, why

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"WHAT DID THAT HAN SAY TO YOU?"
be well nigh hopeless; but as it happened, your nicce and Mr. Raiph were walking siong the road very early in the morning and met the assassin coming from the direction of the house with the tell-tale bundle under his arm. Mr. Raiph would doubtless recognize him again. Miss Smith has recognized him. Add to this the fact that the man is half Italian by birth and spent much of Sicily, and I consider that I have sufficient evidence in hand to cause his arrest. I want every man and weman in the United States interested in the Opium and Whisky hubits to have one of my books on these diseases. Address B. M. Wooller, Atlanta, Ga., Box 389, and one will be sent you free.

"There are reasons, however, why such a proceeding is inadvisable and why a different course will serve the ends of justice almost equally well. As you know, I tried by every means in my power to avoid an assignment in this case, but, seeing the finger of fate in my being compelled to undertake it, I determined that my professional standing at least demanded that I should cursue DE Wirr's Colic and Cholora Care DE WITTS Colle and Cholora Care never disspandits, never fails to give immediate relief. It cures just as sure as you take it. Logan Drug Co., Wheeling, W. Va., B. F. Peabody, tionwood, and Bowle & Co., Bridgeport, O.

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